

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SY-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DOTE-00

/086 W

-----111340Z 014149 /44

P R 111213Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1676

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: LOYALIST GENERAL STRIKE: NINTH DAY

REF: (A) BELFAST 165 (B) BELFAST 163

1. THERE NO RPT NO BUS SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND THIS MORNING BUT ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT PEOPLE WHO ORDINARILY RIDE BUSES ARE MAKING WAY TO PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT EITHER ON FOOT OR BY HITCH-HIKING. THERE WILL BE INCREASE OF ABSENTEEISM AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TO MAKE THEIR WAY UNCERTAINLY FROM HOME TO SCHOOL OR WORK AND BACK THROUGH TERRITORY OF OPPOSITE COMMUNITY. THERE ARE HOWEVER, NO SIGNS THAT MASS SYMPATHY FOR STRIKE IS GROWING OR THAT INTIMIDATION IS GENERALLY SUCCEEDING IN KEEPING PEOPLE AWAY FROM JOBS. LARNE HARBOR IS STILL CLOSED AND SOME INDUSTRIES BEGINNING TO RUN SHORT OF RAW MATERIALS. THERE IS GROWING HEALTH HAZARD FROM LACK COLLECTION GARBAGE IN ALL BUT CATHOLIC AREAS. FARMERS BLOCKING ROADS IN SIX AREAS OF PROVINCE THIS MORNING. HOWEVER, THERE NO RPT NO STREET BARRICADES IN BELFAST.

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THERE GROWING INDICATIONS OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG GROUPS IN UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL (UAC).

2. KILLING OF BUS-DRIVER YESTERDAY (REFTEL A), NO-WARNING BOMB THAT KILLED ONE MAN AND INJURED ELEVEN OTHERS IN FILLING STATION ON CRUMLIN ROAD YESTERDAY EVENING AND SECOND MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION IN NORTH BELFAST THAT

KILLED ANOTHER MAN LAST NIGHT WILL PUT CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON STRIKE COALITION. PAISLEY AND BAIRD HAVE CONDEMNED KILLINGS AS HAS UDA. MAN KILLED BY NO-WARNING CAR BOMB YESTERDAY WAS THE SON OF A UAC STRIKE COMMITTEE MEMBER.

3. ONE POLITICAL HAZARD FOR ORGANIZERS PAISLEY AND BAIRD HAS ALWAYS BEEN WHETHER PARAMILITARIES COULD BE CONTROLLED OR WHETHER EVEN PARAMILITARY LEADERS COULD CONTROL THEIR MORE EXTREME MEMBERS. THE PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN MOST NEGATIVE TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF A STOPPAGE CALLED TO FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE. BELFAST NEWS LETTER HAS RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE UNIT COMMANDERS OF ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) AND ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) DESCRIBING UNWILLINGNESS OF RANK-AND-FILE TO CONTINUE ACTING AS " FRONT-MEN" FOR POLITICIANS AND CALLING FOR END OF STRIKE. CONGEN INFORMED THAT SCUFFLES BETWEEN MEMBERS SAME GROUPS OCCURRED IN SEVERAL HOUSING PROJECTS NIGHT MAY 10-11. ONE FACTOR HERE SEEMS TO BE CONTRAST IN CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN HARD-LINE LOYALIST AREAS WITH THOSE SURROUNDING PAISLEY AND BAIRD. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PHYSICAL HARDSHIP IN URBAN AREAS SUCH AS THE SHANKILL AND ON SANDY ROW ESPECIALLY FOR OLD AGE PENSIONERS AND THOSE WHO ORDINARILY RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. PAISLEY AND BAIRD, WHILE DEMONSTRABLY WORKING HARD, DO NOT SEEM TO BE SUFFERING. THE URBAN WORKING-CLASS, FROM WHOM URBAN LOYALIST GUERRILLAS ARE DRAWN HAS NEVER IDENTIFIED WITH PAISLEY, LET ALONE BAIRD, AND THE COALITION IS NOW BEING SHAKEN BY REVIVED AWARENESS OF CLASS DIFFERENCES.

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4. NUMBER OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS BALLYLUMFORD WHO SCHEDULED TO WALK OFF JOB AT MIDNIGHT AND POSSIBLE EFFECT ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLY STILL UNCERTAIN. IT DIFFICULT OBTAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION ON LEVEL OF ABSENTEEISM IN CRITICAL SERVICES SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS, POWER AND TRANSPORT. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES ARE NORMAL TODAY WHETHER LABOR IS BEING PROVIDED BY MANAGERIAL STAFF OR NOT.

SPICER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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